

# MY HEARTHSIDE

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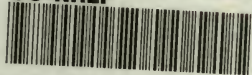
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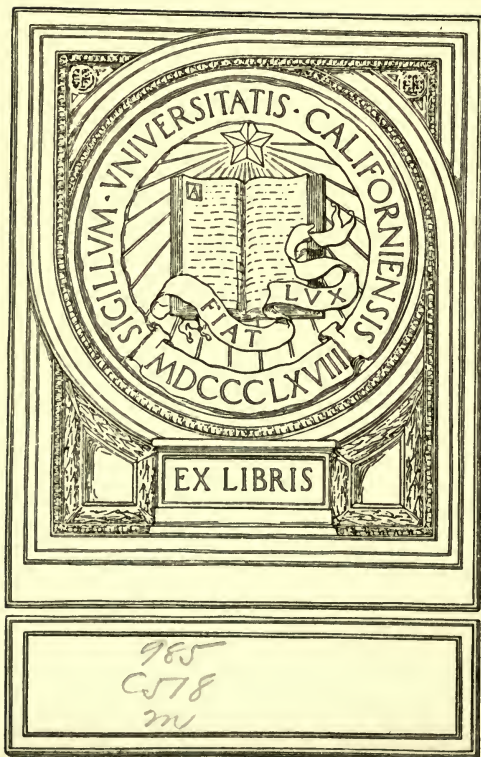
POEMS WRITTEN  
TO SALLY

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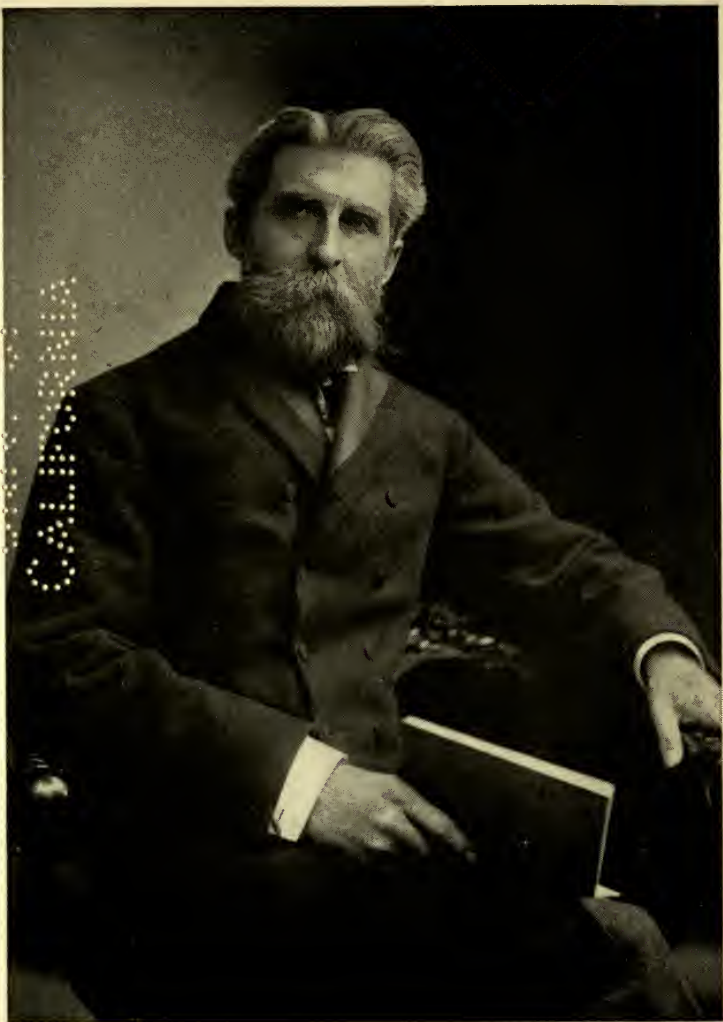
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J. V.'s "Sally"

To dear Tony Connor  
from  
Caroline Franklin  
Xmas 1922.









*John Vance Cheney*

# My Hearthside

Poems written to Sally

by

John Vance Cheney



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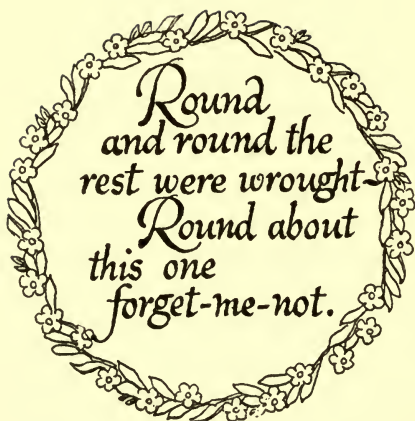
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## CONTENTS

Thou and I . . . . .	7
My Castle in the Air . . . . .	13
The Way to Learn . . . . .	17
Sadie . . . . .	21
My Fairest Fair . . . . .	25
For Sally on her Birthday . . . . .	29
To Sally on her Birthday . . . . .	33
Sally . . . . .	37
Love's World . . . . .	41
I Keep Thy Memory . . . . .	45

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*Thou and I*



## *My Hearthside*

THOU AND I



LOVE, I would have thee as the snow  
is, white  
And pure on hilltops of the winter  
day;

Thou shouldst have sovereign rule, the  
spirit sway  
Of beauty, wide and shining as the light.  
Thou shouldst be as the evening star is,  
bright

As heaven can make it; all thy summer  
way

The melodies of June should sing and play  
In thee, the darling of the day and night.  
But I would have thee human first and last,  
One not untouched by trouble, sought of  
sin,

Thine innocence not accident, but  
choice.

Fit then my service: I should have no past,  
No future; newly would my life begin,  
Obedient to the music of thy voice.





*My Castle in the Air*



MY CASTLE IN THE AIR



R in the East or in the West,  
Where shall I build my bird a nest?  
Northward or southward, whither  
roam

To build my little love a home?  
Up yonder, in the clean, sweet air,  
I think that I could keep her, there,  
Too much an angel for the ground,  
For heaven somewhat too warm and round.





*The Way to Learn*



## *My Hearthside*

### THE WAY TO LEARN



THE way to learn how well I love  
you, Dear?

Ask any of the gossip winds that  
blow,

The thousand flowers that burn it where  
they glow,

The happy hours that hold the summer  
here;

Question the sound, the silence, far and  
near,

The brook, which sings it or must cease  
to flow,—

Ask all the blissful things above, below.  
Their answer, Sweet—of that I have no  
fear;

For I believe all life below, above,

Is leagued with love as light is with the  
day,

That heaven and earth aye take the  
lover's part.

But should all other voices mock my love,  
You will not heed them; you will turn  
away,

Content to have the answer of your  
heart.



*Sadie*





## *My Hearthside*

### SADIE \*



WHEN you see a plummy hat  
And sealskin sack, and inside  
that  
A little brisk, right busy lady,  
Why, mind your eye; it may be Sadie.  
When you follow softly after,  
And chance to hear such merry laughter  
As makes the very sunshine shady,  
Then, ten to one, it's Sukey Sadie.  
And should she turn on you brown eyes  
Soft as June dusk when daylight dies  
Along the fields all bloomy, bladey,  
Away with doubt, and swear it's Sadie.  
Brown - haired, brown - skinned, and robin  
round,  
A sweet-heart baby, grown and gowned,  
Heart high, but every inch a lady—  
That's my little Sukey Sadie!

\*Later called Sally.



*My Fairest Fair*





MY FAIREST FAIR



HERE is, they say, no sweetest  
    rose,  
There is no fairest face; for fancy  
    grows  
    Its own deceiver.  
But, right or wrong, what does love care?  
I say, "World over, only one's all fair,"  
    And so believe her.



*For Sally on her Birthday*



FOR SALLY ON HER BIRTHDAY

**M**IND you, Fortune, have a care!  
More I ask than pipe and chair,  
Than my Steinway and my book,  
Than my Roxy and my nook.

On this February day  
Abe and Darwin came our way;  
Thanks for small favors! Now for more  
Than you ever gave before.  
Abe and Charles, is that the tally?  
Hark! To them you added Sally.  
Little Sally, rid of ills,  
Knitting on the Mission Hills—  
Keep her, Fortune, young and fair,  
In the big sun-parlor there;  
Pipe and Steinway, hill and valley,  
Nothing were without my Sally.



*To Sally on her Birthday*





## *My Hearthside*

### TO SALLY ON HER BIRTHDAY

**T**HIS is to her my hearthside and  
my rest;  
My lares, where she sets them up  
they stand;

Bright shapes of comfort, quiet, pleasures  
best—

She leads them hither with her little hand.  
She looking with me in the summer grass,

Or up and down the path the wild stars  
roam,

I see what meaning, peace, the good world  
has;

My heart and I know love's own roof and  
home.

Let me not keep my candle under cover;

The glad sun shines his joy out every  
day,—

The sun, earth's lord and glory, golden  
lover—

From morning unto morning does he say:  
"The while the lover can his heart repeat,  
The love in it is growing sweet and sweet."



*Sally*



## *My Hearthside*

### SALLY



I was four years ago  
I found you, Dear;  
Love's happy seasons fly  
How swiftly by!

Dear, do you know,  
Know you, dear,  
It seems, reckon as I may,  
But yesterday?  
Four years have taken wing;  
Ere they were here  
How was it I could find  
For heart and mind  
Sweet comforting?  
How did I, dear,  
Before—love showed the place—  
I saw your face?  
Love well can lose and lose  
To win at last:  
Now, through the years to be  
You bide with me.  
We cannot choose,  
The past is past;  
But I would give it, dear,  
For what is here.




*Love's World*





LOVE'S WORLD

F the year be at her Spring  
I neither know nor care;  
I have the bird-song of your  
speech,  
The warm rain of your hair.  
I question not if thrushes sing,  
If roses load the air;  
Beyond my heart I need not reach  
When all is summer there.  
I go not by the blue above,  
By grasses green or sere;  
Your silences, your sigh, your smile  
They mark my time o' year.  
Its own brave wonder-world has love;  
So fair it is, I fear  
Sometimes 'twill fade and go the while  
I look upon you, dear.



*I Keep Thy Memory*



## *My Hearthside*

### I KEEP THY MEMORY



KEEP thy memory as the hill-  
hold tops

The sun when light has left the  
valley way;

With dream of thee I lengthen out the  
day:

Nor dark does shut thee out, nor slumber—  
fold.

Day sinking, up the lovely stars are rolled;  
The hill forgets the peerless sun in play  
Of feebler fires; but thou dost with me  
stay:

My night, my midnight, wears the morning  
gold.

I keep thy memory, and I count it truth  
That love, once come to men, shall never  
go;

I keep thy memory, and the world is  
fair,

Yea, beautiful all life with fadeless youth.  
Loving may be but dreaming. Even so,  
The heaven in my heart, I keep it there.



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